(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/006878 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7: C07C 255/30, C07D 295/145

A61K 7/42.

CALS HOLDING INC.; Patentableilung, Klybeckstrasse

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2003/006955

(22) International Filing Date: 1 July 2003 (01.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

02405582.4

10 July 2002 (10.07.2002)

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CII, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEROCYANINE DERIVATIVES FOR COSMETIC USE

(57) Abstract: The use is described of merocyanine derivatives of formula (1), wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen; C1-C22alkyl; cyclo-C3C8alkyl; or unsubstituted or C1-C5alkyl- or C1-C5alkoxy-substituted C6-C20aryl; or l; or R1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a -(CH₂)_n-ring which is uninterrupted or, interrupted by -O- or by -NH-: R_3 is a cyano group; -COOR₅; -CONHR₅; -COR₅; or -SO₂R₅; R₄ is a cyano group; -COOR₆; -CONHR₆; -COR₆; or -SO₂R₆; R₅ and R₆ are each independently of the other C_1 - C_2 alkyl; or unsubstituted or C_1 - C_3 alkyl substituted C_6 - C_2 0aryl; or R_3 and R_4 together or R_5 and R₆ together form a 5- to 7-membered, monocyclic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; Z₁, and Z₂ are each independently of the other a -(CII₂), group which is uninterrupted or interrupted by -O-, -S-, or by -NR₇-, and/or is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁₁-C₅ alkyl; R_7 is C_1C_5 alkyl; 1 is from 1 to 4; m is from 1 to 7; n is from 1 to 4; when n = 2, R_1 , R_5 or R_6 is a bivalent alkyl group; or R_1 , and R_2 together with the 2 nitrogen atoms linking them form a -(CII₂)_m-ring; when n = 3, R₁, R₅ or R₆ is a trivalent alkyl group; when n = 4, R₁, R₅ or R₆ is a tetravalent alkyl group; and R₁, and R₂ in formula (1) are not simultaneously hydrogen, in protecting human and animal hair and skin from UV radiation.